

Commonwealth Center for Children & Adolescents  
Staunton VA

**LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE**

05/16/06

6:00PM

Present: Deborah Atno-Shelton, Chair  
Jim Hall, Secretary  
Joe Tuell, Fac. Dir.  
Chris Ruble, *Affiliate: Whisper Ridge-Staunton*

Wendy Young, Member  
Mark Seymour, CCCA-Advocate  
Pam White, CCCA LHRC Liaison  
Joe Morris, *Affiliate: Shenandoah House/Intercept*

Guests: Macy Fox, Prospective Member

Margaret Walsh, DMHMRSAS/Office of Human Rights Director

Absent: Dan McCauley, Vice-Chair

Minutes Prepared by: Pamela White

Approved by:

  
Jim Hall, Secretary

CURRENT AGENDA	FUTURE AGENDA
1. Call to Order; Review of Minutes	1. Call to Order; Review of Minutes
2. Advocate's Report	2. CCCA Facility Director's Report
3. CCCA Facility Director's Report	3. Advocate's Report
4. Adjourn	4. The next regular CCCA LHRC meeting has been scheduled for 07/11/06 @ 6:00pm.

1. Jim Hall-Acting Chair called the meeting to order with round table introductions, welcoming all present. The LHRC minutes of 03/21/06 were reviewed.

Action: The CCCA LHRC minutes of 03/21/06 were approved as presented.

2. Chris Ruble, COO for *Affiliate: Whisper Ridge-Staunton* began his Annual Report, announcing a name change for the program. The new name is *Liberty Point Behavioral Health*. He highlighted patient activities and reaffirmed that Human Rights training is provided to all staff. Mr. Ruble stated that the portion of the written program concerning the *DMHMRSAS Rules & Regulations to Assure the Rights of Individuals Receiving Services from Providers of MH, MR, and Substance Abuse Services* had been tailored to the level of patient comprehension and that throughout the program the reinforcing emphasis was on "respect yourself-respect others-respect your community." He added that there have been no formal complaints thus far and that most informal issues relate to individual preferences such as food choices. Mr. Ruble reported that 3 allegations of mistreatment had been investigated and deemed unfounded. He also informed the CCCA LHRC that during his DMHMRSAS Licensure Review, there were 3 citations which were resolved and he noted that their triennial Licensure Survey would re-occur in approximately 6 weeks. Regarding staffing, he stated that no employee was under the age of 21 years.

Action: The CCCA LHRC thanked Mr. Ruble for the Annual Report from *Liberty Point Behavioral Health*.

3. Mark Seymour-Advocate introduced DMHMRSAS staff member Margaret Walsh who is the Director of the Office of Human Rights and regularly attends meetings of the State Human Rights Committee (SHRC). Ms. Walsh expressed gratitude to the community volunteers who serve as LHRC members, recognizing the CCCA LHRC as being the single committee whose issues are child-focused. Ms. Walsh announced that the LHRC member training offered by the DMHMRSAS-OHR is scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> in Richmond; all committee members are invited. She also reported that the SHRC has initiated a newsletter entitled *Human Writes*, available from the DMHMRSAS website.

Mr. Seymour presented the Advocate's Report, stating that the current *DMHMRSAS Rules & Regulations...* were nearing the end of the revision process with a final product likely sometime in the Fall 2006. Regarding the request from Valley CSB LHRC for children's programs to affiliate with CCCA LHRC, Mr. Seymour stated that he would contact Lutheran Family Services to present at the next meeting. He closed by noting that admissions have increased in provider programs.

Macy Fox-Pro prospective Member was introduced to the CCCA LHRC; she highlighted her application for membership with those present, citing a strong interest in mental health issues of children and adolescents both as the parent of a child consumer and as a healthcare professional.

Action: The CCCA LHRC recommended that Ms. Fox's member application be submitted to the SHRC for review and approval.

4. Joe Tuell-Facility Director presented the CCCA Facility Director's Report, stating that the Center has experienced high admissions, including an increase in youngsters who are autistic or have an MR diagnosis. He added that the Center is striving to reduce the usage of seclusion and restraint. Mr. Tuell reported that a recent patient allegation had been addressed and determined to be founded, resulting in staff disciplinary action. He also commented that the joint venture with DePaul Family Services on the topic "Trauma in Children & Adolescents: Impact & Interventions" was well-attended and most participants were complimentary of the presentation by CCCA staff.

Mr. Tuell shared the recent experience as related to him by a Unit Nurse here at the Center:

The Unit Nurse had just gotten off duty after a particularly trying day and noticed, in the parking lot, a family loading up getting ready to leave. The young patient was being discharged that day, coming into the Center as a very troubled adolescent. The patient saw the Unit Nurse and immediately went to meet him to say good bye and thanked him for being "there" for the patient. It was in that moment that the Unit Nurse knew he had made a difference in the life of this child.

Action: Mr. Tuell will continue provide updates regarding facility issues as needed.

5. The CCCA LHRC discussed changing the date of the next meeting due to schedule conflicts.

Action: The next meeting of the CCCA LHRC was changed to 07/11/06 at 6pm at the Center.